

Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 ACDA-05 /085 W

----- 074416

R 271218Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

SECSTATE WASHDC 6824

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3218

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS SY XF

SUBJECT: RATIONALE FOR SYRIAN UNDOF EXTENSION

REF: DAMASCUS 1934

1. SUBJECT OF SYRIAN REASONING BEHIND SIX MONTH EXTENSION OF UNDOF HAS ALSO RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE SPECULATIVE ATTENTION IN ISRAEL. ISRAELIS WERE SURPRISED BY SYRIAN DECISION, BUT THINKING HERE HAS BEEN ALONG LINES THAT SYRIANS WERE (1) ANXIOUS NOT TO RISK TROUBLE AT TIME WHEN THEIR RELATIONS WITH IRAQ WERE UNDER REAL STRESS, AND (2) TRYING TO PUT EGYPT OUT AHEAD BY HAVING SYRIAN EXTENSION LAST BEYOND ADDITIONAL TWO MONTH PERIOD ABOUT WHICH THERE HAD BEEN SO MUCH SPECULATION. SIX MONTH EXTENSION GIVES SYRIANS GREATER FREEDOM OF ACTION, IT IS THOUGHT HERE.

2. WE HAVE NOTED VIEW EXPRESSED IN REF (PARA 6) THAT EMBASSY DAMASCUS BELIEVES THAT ON PURELY MILITARY GROUNDS, SYRIANS WOULD PREFER ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL IN WINTER RATHER THAN SUMMER. IT HAS BEEN CONVENTIONAL VIEW HERE THAT
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WINTER OPERATIONS ON GOLAN WERE LIKELY TO BE SO DIFFICULT

THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE INITIATED.

3. IN DATT MSG LAST FALL (291318Z OCT 74.
TEXT BEING REPEATED TO DAMASCUS), ATTENTION WAS CALLED
TO POSSIBILITY THIS CONVENTIONAL WISDOM MIGHT
NOT BE CONTROLLING IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES.
THAT MESSAGE DID NOT STIMULATE COMMENT AT THE TIME.
WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING IF
THERE HAVE BEEN RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WHICH MAY HAVE LED
TO SYRIAN RECONSIDERATION OF NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF WINTER
WARFARE.
VELIOTES

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES, MILITARY PLANS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750184-1018
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

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TAGS: PFOR, IS, SY, XF, UNDOF
To: DAMASCUS STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006